



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Central Coast Region



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

May 23, 2007

Dear Interested Party:

Notice of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Scoping Meeting and Public Workshop on the Development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the Pajaro River, San Benito River, Llagas Creek, and Tequisquita Slough, to Control the Discharge of Fecal Coliform.

PURPOSE

Central Coast Water Board staff (Water Board staff) will hold a CEQA scoping meeting and public workshop to discuss the development of TMDLs and Implementation Plans for the control of discharges of fecal coliform to the waters referenced above. The TMDLs will allocate pollutant loading capacities and establish an implementation plan to control fecal coliform discharges so that that receiving waters attain fecal coliform water quality standards for recreation beneficial uses. The applicable water quality standards for these TMDLs are:

Fecal coliform concentration, based on a minimum of not less than five samples for any 30-day period, shall not exceed a log mean of 200/100mL, nor shall more than ten percent of total samples during any 30-day period exceed 400/100mL.

BACKGROUND

These waters were listed as impaired by fecal coliform on the States' "List of Water Quality Limited Segments" (List) pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 303(d) because they exceeded the fecal coliform water quality standard. The Clean Water Act requires the State to develop TMDLs for waters on the list and State law requires development of implementation plans to achieve the TMDLs.

Water Board staff conducted investigations on the nature and causes of impairments, the legal standards that must be met in these waters, and strategies to reduce the amount of fecal coliform discharged to these waters in order to achieve the applicable water quality standards. Water Board staff are also considering *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) criteria that has been recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Water Board staff anticipates proposing the TMDLs and implementation plans to the Water Board for adoption in 2008. The TMDLs or implementation plans may require the installation of pollution control equipment or establish a performance standard or treatment requirement.

California Environmental Protection Agency

CEQA SCOPING MEETING AND PUBLIC WORKSHOP CONDUCT AND SCHEDULE

This meeting and workshop will provide participants with: 1) an explanation and understanding of the TMDL project, 2) an opportunity to comment on the TMDL project, and 3) an opportunity to comment on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental analysis and environmental documentation for this TMDL project to be prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the Water Board's certified regulatory program for basin planning (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15251, subdivision (g); and Title 23, Section 3775 et seq).

Interested persons are specifically requested to provide information about:

- How they or responsible parties would foreseeably comply with the TMDL;
- The reasonably foreseeable significant environmental impacts associated with those means of compliance;
- Specific evidence supporting that such impacts are reasonably foreseeable, and describing the magnitude (how significant) of the impacts;
- Reasonable alternative means of compliance that would have less significant adverse environmental impacts;
- Reasonable mitigation measures that would minimize any unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the means of compliance.

Water Board staff will consider issues raised and comments provided, both on the appropriate scope and content of the environmental documentation and on the TMDL project, in the final reports that will be presented to the Water Board.

Water Board staff will accept verbal comments at the Public Workshop and written comments received by Monday, June 27, 2007. Water Board staff will not prepare written responses to each individual comment received, but will incorporate written responses to all significant environmental points in the final reports that will be provided to the Water Board. Water Board staff will prepare written responses to individual comments submitted during the formal public comment period that will be conducted prior to hearing by the Water Board planned for 2008.

Time and Location:

Date: June 20, 2007

Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Address: Gilroy City Hall, Council Chambers, 7351 Rosanna Street, Gilroy, CA 95020. Individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact Larry Harlan at (805) 594-6195 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service at 1-800-735-2929 or voice line at 1-800-735-2922.

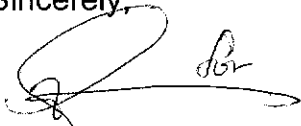
May 23, 2007

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding CEQA Scoping or the TMDL project should be directed to Larry Harlan at (805) 594-6195 or lhlarlan@waterboards.ca.gov. Please mail written comments to Larry Harlan at 895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-7906.

A Project Summary will be available on June 6, 2007 at the Water Board website at: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/TMDL/PublicCommentParticipation.htm>. The Project Summary is also available by request at the office of the Central Coast Water Board; please contact Larry Harlan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Briggs', is written over a horizontal line.

Roger W. Briggs
Executive Officer

cc: Pajaro River Watershed IPL

File: Pajaro River Fecal Coliform TMDLs